IN THE CLAIMS ATTACHED TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT:

Please rewrite claims 1-17 as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid amplification assay for quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of the presence of a specific analyte or specific analytes in a biological sample, which analytes, if present, are contained in biological particles ~~(4)~~ of said sample ~~(2)~~, in which assay the sample ~~(2)~~ is forced in a first direction through a filter ~~(6)~~ that retains said biological particles ~~(4)~~ **characterised ~~in that~~** wherein said biological particles ~~(4)~~ retained in said filter ~~(6)~~ are flushed, by a flush flow ~~(8)~~, in a second opposite direction through said filter ~~(6)~~ out of said filter ~~(6)~~ and said flush flow ~~(8)~~ containing said biological particles ~~(4)~~ flushed out is analysed for the analyte or analytes.

2. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 1 **characterised ~~in that said assay comprises~~** further comprising an additional filtration prior to the filtration retaining the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes, which additional filtration

does not retain the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes but retains particles ~~(10)~~ that might interfere with the analysis of the analyte or analytes.

3. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 1 ~~or 2 **characterised** in that~~ wherein the flow containing the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes flushed out is analysed for the analyte or analytes without any further purification.

4. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 1~~, 2 or 3 **characterised in that**~~ wherein retention of the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes in the filter ~~(6)~~ is essentially size dependent.

5. (Currently amended) The assay of ~~any of claims 1 to 4 **characterised** in that~~ claim 1 wherein retention of the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes in the filter ~~(6)~~ is essentially dependent on the chemical properties of the particle.

6. (Currently amended) The assay of ~~any of claims 1 to 5 **characterised** in that~~ claim 1 wherein the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes are selected from the group consisting of prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells or spores or components thereof, viruses or viral particles, complexes comprising protein and/or nucleic acid, and any combination thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 6 ~~**characterised** in that~~ wherein the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes are selected from the group consisting of bacteria, bacterial cell, plant pollen, ~~mithochondria~~ mitochondria, chloroplast, cell nuclei, virus, phage, chromosome and ribosome.

8. (Currently amended) The assay of ~~any of claims 1 to 7 **characterised** in that~~ claim 1 wherein the means of analysing the analyte or analytes is selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction (PCR), reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), ligase chain reaction (LCR), proximity ligation assay, nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA),

strand displacement amplification (SDA) and any combination thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The assay of ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ **~~characterised~~** ~~in that~~ claim 1 wherein the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes are flushed with a liquid or a gas preferably not contained in the original ~~sample 2~~ sample.

10. (Currently amended) The assay of ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ **~~characterised~~** ~~in that~~ claim 1 wherein the analyte or analytes are selected from the group consisting of a living and/or dead cell or virus; a peptide, a protein or complex thereof; a nucleic acid; and any combination thereof.

11. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 10 **~~characterised~~** ~~in that~~ wherein the analyte or analytes comprises living and/or dead cells and/or viruses selected from the group consisting of a mold, a yeast, a eukaryotic cell or organism, a pathogenic virus and a cancer cell.

12. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 10 ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein the analyte or analytes comprises nucleic acids selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA and any derivative thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The assay of claim 10 ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein the analyte or analytes comprises peptides and/or proteins or complexes thereof selected from the group consisting of a hormone, a growth factor, an enzyme or parts thereof and/or complexes thereof; and any combination thereof.

14. (Currently amended) An arrangement ~~(12)~~ for preparing a biological sample ~~(2)~~ for quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of the presence of a specific analyte or specific analytes, which analytes, if present, are contained in biological particles ~~(4)~~ of the sample ~~(2)~~, wherein the arrangement ~~(12)~~ comprises

a) a housing ~~(14)~~ for a filter ~~(6)~~;

b) a filter ~~(6)~~ within said housing ~~(14)~~ for retaining ~~the~~ biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes, said filter ~~(6)~~ having two sides,

i) a sample inlet side ~~(16)~~ and

ii) a flushing flow inlet side ~~(18)~~; and

c) means for

i) leading ~~(20)~~ the sample ~~(2)~~ through the filter ~~(6)~~ from the sample inlet side ~~(16)~~ to the flushing flow inlet side ~~(18)~~,

ii) leading ~~(22)~~ the flush flow ~~(8)~~ from its inlet side ~~(18)~~ to the sample inlet side ~~(16)~~, and

iii) retrieving ~~(24)~~ for analysis biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte flushed from the filter ~~(6)~~;

~~**characterised in that**~~ <u>wherein</u> the arrangement ~~(12)~~ comprises a filter rack ~~(32)~~ that is a multi-way valve, with separate connections for sample inlet ~~(20)~~, sample retrieval ~~(24)~~, flush flow inlet ~~(36)~~ and waste disposal ~~(38)~~, and optionally for wash flow ~~(34)~~, and the filter rack ~~(32)~~ with the filter ~~(6)~~ can be turned in alternative positions so that flow is directed from

d) the sample inlet ~~(20)~~ into the filter ~~(6)~~ from the sample inlet side ~~(16)~~ to the flush flow inlet side ~~(18)~~ and to waste ~~(38)~~ or optionally for use as flush flow,

e) the flush flow inlet ~~(22)~~ into the filter ~~(6)~~ from the flush flow inlet side ~~(18)~~ to the sample inlet side ~~(16)~~ and to sample retrieval ~~(24)~~, or

f) optionally, the flow inlet ~~(30)~~ into the filter ~~(6)~~ from the sample inlet side ~~(16)~~ to the flush flow inlet side ~~(18)~~ and to waste ~~(38)~~ or for recycling.

15. (Currently amended) The arrangement ~~(12)~~ according to claim 14 ~~**characterised in that**~~ wherein the arrangement ~~(12)~~ further comprises

a) an additional filter ~~(26)~~ that does not retain the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes but retains particles ~~(10)~~ that might interfere with the analysis of the analyte or analytes, and

b) means for leading ~~(28)~~ the sample ~~(2)~~ through said additional filter ~~(26)~~ prior to leading it through the filter ~~(6)~~ for retaining the biological particles ~~(4)~~ containing the analyte or analytes.

16. (Currently amended) The arrangement ~~(12)~~ according to claim 14 ~~or 15 **characterised** in that~~ wherein the arrangement ~~(12)~~ further comprises means for leading ~~(30)~~ a washing liquid or gas through the filter ~~(6)~~ from the sample inlet side ~~(16)~~ to the flushing flow inlet side ~~(18)~~ for washing the retained biological particles ~~(4)~~

containing the analyte or analytes prior to flushing them out of the filter ~~(6)~~.

17. (Currently amended) A kit of parts, components and/or reagents ~~for performing the assay according to any of claims 1 to 13, **characterised** in that it comprises~~ comprising the arrangement ~~(12) according to any of claims 14 to 16~~ of claim 14.